AWESOME stories

EISENHOWER'S PROOF



0. EISENHOWER'S PROOF - Story Preface

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General Eisenhower wanted to be in some of the pictures his soldiers were taking in liberated concentration camps. Here, he is at Ohrdruf with other high-ranking U.S. Army officers. They are witnessing a view of bodies of prisoners on the 12th of April, 1945. Online via the U.S. National Archives.

WARNING: SOME OF THE LINKS IN THIS CHAPTER, PARTICULARLY THE VIDEO CLIPS, DEPICT GRAPHIC IMAGES OF WAR AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

THE CLIPS ARE PROVIDED AS PRIMARY-SOURCE EVIDENCE OF NAZI ATROCITIES DURING WORLD WAR II. PLEASE PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS BEFORE ALLOWING CHILDREN TO SEE THEM. SOME ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AT ALL.

At the end of World War II, General Eisenhower made a decision to personally visit as many Nazi concentration camps as he could. His reason? He wanted to document the camps and their appalling conditions.

Anticipating a time when Nazi atrocities might be denied, General Eisenhower also ordered the filming and photographing of camps as they were liberated. Members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps recorded approximately 80,000 feet of moving film, together with still photographs.

Within months after the war in Europe, about 6,000 feet of that film footage was excerpted to create a one-hour documentary called "Nazi Concentration Camp". Prosecutors used the film, which is graphically gruesome, to prove that Nazi leaders, on trial at Nuremberg, had perpetrated unbelievably heinous crimes against humanity.

Thomas Dodd, one of the U.S. prosecutors, introduced the film into evidence on the 29th of November, 1945. When the lights came up, after the trial film was screened, people had a new understanding of what the words "concentration camp" really meant.

Eisenhower wanted to be in as many pictures as possible to prove the death camps really existed. He was sometimes accompanied by Generals Bradley and Patton (such as their visit to the Ohrdruf concentration camp on April 12, 1945).



It didn't take long for Eisenhower's concerns to materialize. Despite his presence in many photographs, Holocaust deniers persist to this day.

The U.S. National Archives contain a great deal of evidence regarding World War II. What do those archives reveal about the Holocaust?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EISENHOWER-S-PROOF-Holocaust-Evidence

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EISENHOWER-S-PROOF-Holocaust-Evidence

Media Stream



Ohrdruf Concentration Camp - Eisenhower Visits

General Eisenhower visits Ohrdruf concentration camp on April 12, 1945. He is viewing a location which the SS used to burn the bodies of camp prisoners.

At this point in time, Germany had not-yet surrendered and Hitler was still alive (in his Berlin bunker).

With Eisenhower are other high-ranking U.S. Army generals: General Bradley is next to Eisenhower - note his helmet with its three stars. General Patton is also at the scene, wearing riding breeches. Also present is General Eddy.

A correspondent for the “Stars and Stripes,” Jules Grad, is second-from-left (taking notes). Alois J. Liethen (from Appleton, Wisconsin) - a mustached soldier - is serving as an interpreter for the Generals’ tour of Ohrdruf.
After discovering the horrors of Ohrdruf, and other Third-Reich camps, Eisenhower said:
We are told the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now, at least, we know what he is fighting against.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 2

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
Clip online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 3

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 4

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 5

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 6

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
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Nuremberg Trial Film - Nazi Concentration Camps, Pt 7

Clip from "Nazi Concentration Camps," a documentary created for the Nuremberg war-crimes trial and introduced as evidence on November 29, 1945.
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